

Please cancel claim 26.

REMARKS

Claims 21, 29, 32-34, 36-39 have been amended and new claim 40 has been written in a format that complies with the new rule 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c). These claim amendments contain the same subject matter of the amendments filed in the Amendment and Reply filed on May 2, 2001. The filing of this supplemental amendment is only to put the claim amendments in the format required by the new rules.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is firmly believed that the subject invention is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 11-0600 with any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned directly at (202) 220-4258.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Marked up copy of amended claims
09/242,561

21. (Twice Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet of an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:
- providing a planar substrate;
- providing an oily liquid layer; [and]
- providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily layer [a minute aqueous droplet to in contact with said substrate; said minute droplet being substantially immiscible with said liquid layer,] ; and
- shooting a minute droplet of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate.
- wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet of aqueous solution [minute aqueous droplet] that are not in contact with said planar substrate whereby evaporation is reduced.
29. (Amended) The process of claim 21 further comprising providing a covering over said oily liquid layer.
32. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 21 further comprising providing a second [an] aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer adjacent to said minute droplet of said aqueous solution [minute aqueous droplet] wherein said second aqueous solution does not contact said minute droplet of said aqueous solution [minute aqueous droplet].
33. (Twice Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet of an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:

providing a planar substrate;
 providing an oily liquid layer;
 providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily liquid layer [a minute aqueous droplet to contact with said planar substrate; said minute aqueous droplet being immiscible with said liquid layer; and] ;
shooting a minute droplet of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate, and
 providing a covering in contact with said minute droplet of said aqueous solution [minute aqueous droplet],
 wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet of said aqueous solution [minute aqueous droplet] that are not in contact with said planar substrate and said covering whereby evaporation is reduced.

34. (Twice Amended) A process for conducting a reaction in a minute droplet of an aqueous solution protected from evaporation comprising the steps of:
- providing a planar substrate;
 providing an oily liquid layer;
 providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily liquid layer [a minute aqueous droplet to contact said planar substrate; said minute aqueous droplet being immiscible with said oily liquid layer,];
shooting a minute droplet of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate;
 providing a covering in contact with said oily liquid layer;
 wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet of said aqueous solution [minute aqueous droplet] that are not in contact with said contact

surface of said planar substrate;

providing to said protected minute droplet a reactant; and conducting a reaction in said produced minute droplet with said reactant whereby evaporation is reduced.

36. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 34 wherein said minute droplet of said aqueous solution [aqueous minute droplet] comprises DNA.
37. (Amended) The process of claim 34 wherein the contact surface between said planar substrate and said minute droplet of said aqueous solution comprises an enzyme adsorption preventing agent.
38. (Amended) The process of claim 34 wherein the contact surface between said planar substrate and said minute droplet of said aqueous solution comprises a bovine serum albumin coating.
39. (Amended) The process of claim 34 wherein said oily liquid layer has a thickness of about 100 μm or less.